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Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015
(Item 3 (b))

Programme 2
Political affairs

1. At its 6th meeting, on 6 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 2)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support and appreciation were expressed for the programme. Views were expressed that the programme was important for the maintenance of international peace and security.

4. It was indicated that clarification was needed on the constraints the Department of Political Affairs faced in implementing its programme owing to limited travel resources; on the measures the Department used to limit requirements for travel; and on whether the special political missions administered by the Department work closely with respective resident coordinators to avoid travel by Headquarters staff. It was indicated that delays in recruitment of staff could affect the delivery of the programme.

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5. Concern was expressed regarding the criteria for the establishment of special political missions, and the view was expressed that those activities should be considered as peacekeeping operations and consequently financed as such.

6. An observation was made on the responsibility of the Department in providing assistance to special political missions. It was pointed out that the indicators pertaining to special political missions should be better reflected and that transparency was required in respect of the activities of those missions.

7. The view was expressed that the principle of international law, non-intervention and sovereignty of Member States, should have been better reflected in the framework. An observation was made that some of the elements of the framework were not clear and measurable.

8. Some delegations encouraged the efforts of the Secretariat to develop a more widespread approach to define qualitative indicators of achievement. It was the view of the delegations that the Secretariat should go further in reflecting the proportion of its actual achievements within the level of its activity.

9. Views were expressed in support of subprogramme 1, Prevention management and resolution of conflicts. It was highlighted that "early warning" was important in efforts geared towards the prevention of conflict. The view was expressed that preventive actions should be carried out in consultation with regional organizations and host Governments.

10. The view was expressed that the electoral assistance provided under subprogramme 2, Electoral assistance, helped States to progress in electoral processes. Electoral assistance was important for the promotion of democracy, especially in countries coming out of conflict. It was stated that parameters and criteria for assessment were not clear and therefore needed further clarification. An observation was made that the method of application of the principles was unclear. The view was expressed that electoral assistance should be provided upon the request of Member States, and clarification was sought as to whether the Department provided technical support to observers. It was stressed that the activities under this subprogramme should be carried out in consultation with the country team and the United Nations agencies concerned, such as the United Nations Development Programme.

11. For subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs, it was stressed that support for activities of various panels represented a significant amount of work and that the administrative support provided appeared to be fragmented, requiring consolidation to achieve synergy. Regarding indicator of achievement (a), a query was raised about how the degree of satisfaction expressed by Member States with the services provided by the Security Council Affairs Division was measured.

12. With regard to subprogramme 5, Question of Palestine, the view was expressed that the meaning of "negotiated settlement" (para. 2.15) needed clarification. The view was expressed that there should be a different formulation in place of "international legitimacy" (ibid.).

13. For subprogramme 8, Peacebuilding Support Office, clarification was sought on the mobilization of resources for peacebuilding activities. It was pointed out that consideration should be given to refining some of the indicators, including (a) (iv) and (d) (ii). The view was expressed that training resources should be utilized for training and not for travel by air of staff receiving training.

14. With regard to subprogramme 9, United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the view was expressed that the number of claims collected and the number of claims cleared should be expressed in specific numbers. Clarification was sought on the reason for locating the Office of the United Nations Register of Damage in Vienna. Objections to various elements of the framework under the subprogramme were expressed.

15. Regarding subprogramme 10, United Nations Office to the African Union, the reason for the presentation of the subprogramme under programme 2, Political affairs, was considered to be unclear. Information was sought on the mandate of the United Nations Office to the African Union. It was pointed out that the objective of the subprogramme needed to reflect Security Council resolution 2033 (2012) of 12 January 2012. The view was expressed that cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union should go beyond political activities. The view was also expressed that good working relations between the United Nations and regional organizations was important and that the relationship between the African Union and the Security Council needed to be further strengthened. An observation was also made that the role of the United Nations Office to the African Union should be improved in coordination with regional and subregional organizations. The view was expressed that the framework needed to reflect the latest joint African Union-United Nations task force and capacity-building and conflict resolution.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed strategic framework, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 2.1

In the first sentence, add the words ", at their request," after the words "Member States".

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, management and resolution of conflict

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (b) (i) with the following:

"(i) Percentage of all requests of Member States and regional organizations in support of the peace process having resulted in preventing or resolving conflict situations".

Replace indicator (b) (ii) with the following:

"(ii) Percentage of projects in support of peacebuilding efforts implemented in areas where conflict situations were resolved or prevented".

Strategy

Paragraph 2.9

Replace the three occurrences of the words "peace consolidation" with the word "peacebuilding".

Subprogramme 2
Electoral assistance

Strategy

Paragraph 2.10

In the third sentence, after "Member States", add "upon their request".

Replace the sixth sentence with the following:

"Moreover, the Division will continue its efforts to enhance cooperation with other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate more comprehensive and needs-specific responses to requests for electoral assistance".

In the seventh sentence, after "peacekeeping operations" add ", if relevant,".

Subprogramme 3
Security Council affairs

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (c) (i) with the following:

"(i) Increased percentage of monitoring mechanisms under Security Council sanctions committees established within the time frame stipulated by Council resolutions".

Strategy

Paragraph 2.11

Replace the second sentence with the following:

"Advice and substantive services will be provided, including the timely issuance of parliamentary documentation and communications; the effective coordination of meetings; the provision of guidance to the Council, its subsidiary bodies and the wider United Nations membership in accordance with the Charter, the Council's provisional rules of procedure, Council decisions and past practice; substantive administrative support to expert monitoring groups and panels and to all relevant subsidiary organs of the Security Council; the planning and organization of missions by members of the Council and chairs of its subsidiary organs; research and analysis, including with respect to current and past practices of the Council, as well as the implementation, effectiveness and impact of mandatory measures or sanctions imposed by the Council; advice regarding the design and implementation of 'targeted' sanctions as well as advocacy; and familiarization sessions for new members of the Council with respect to

the evolving procedure, practice and working methods of the Council and its subsidiary organs, in particular the sanctions committees."

Subprogramme 4
Decolonization

Strategy

Paragraph 2.13

Replace the third and fourth sentences with the following sentence:

"It will examine the views of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories; it will also organize its regional annual seminars in the Caribbean and the Pacific, as well as visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions."

Paragraph 2.14

In the second sentence, after "developing relations with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system", add the following: ", in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions,".

Subprogramme 5
Question of Palestine

Strategy

Paragraph 2.15

In the sixth sentence, replace "international legitimacy" with "international law".

Subprogramme 6
Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

Indicators of achievement

Indicator (a) (ii): Delete ", including the regional spread,".

Strategy

Paragraph 2.16

Replace the fourth sentence with the following:

"The Office will enhance partnerships with Member States, relevant regional and subregional organizations and civil society on the implementation of the Strategy and will enhance access to assistance, information and good practices on promoting implementation."

Subprogramme 8
Peacebuilding Support Office

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), delete the words "and policymaking".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (iii), delete the words "and United Nations".

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (iv) with the following:

"(iv) Number of recommendations from the 2010 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, set out in the Peacebuilding Commission-approved road map, implemented".

Strategy

Paragraph 2.22

Replace the last sentence with the following:

"In accordance with intergovernmental mandates, the Office will also provide support to countries emerging from conflict."